GIANNI SCHICCHI

GIACOMO PUCCINI

TROUBLE in TAHITI

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

2-ONE ACT OPERAS

presented by

THE UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3
THURSDAY MARCH 4

AT 8:00 P.M.
CONVOCATION HALL
ARTS BUILDING

TROUBLE in TAHITI

An Opera in one act*

words and music by
Leonard Bernstein

CAST in order of appearance

THE TRIO, a Greek Chorus born of the dance-band Tradition ..... Jennifer Scragg, David Speers, Michel Gervais

SAM, a business man ..... Randal Lecky

DINAH, Sam's wife ..... Judith Hambley

The action is in any American City and its suburbs, 1976.

Scene I — Breakfast at home

Scene II — Sam's office in the city

Scene III — Dinah at the Psychiatrist's office

Scene IV — City street

Scene V — The locker room at the gym

Scene VI —The hat shop

Scene VII — at home after dinner

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GIANNI SCHICCHI

A comic opera in one act

Music by
GIACOMO PUCCINI

libretto by
Giovacchino Forzano
(Sung in English)

CAST in order of appearance

The relatives of Buoso Donati

ZITA, called the "Old Woman", a cousin to Buoso ..... Mary Louise Burke

SIMONE, a cousin to Buoso ..... David Snable

RINUCCIO, Zita's nephew, in love with Lauretta ..... Nigel Lemon

MARCO, Simone's son ..... Michel Gervais

La CIESCA, Marco's wife ..... Judith Holswick

GHERARDO, Buoso's nephew ..... David Speers

NELLA, his wife ..... Janet Nichol

BETTO, a cousin to Buoso ..... Donald James

GHERARDINO, Gherardo and Nella's son ..... Jeff Curry

GIANNI SCHICCHI, a peasant ..... George Cotton

LAURETTA, his daughter ..... Sandra Gavinchuk

MASTER SPINELLOCCIO, physician
AMANTIO DI NICOLAO, notary ..... } Lothar Backman

PINELLINO, shoemaker ..... Robert Mast

GUCCIO, a dyer ..... Jeff Curry

The action takes place in 1299, in Florence, in Buoso's mansion.

CONDUCTOR, Alfred Strombergs

DIRECTOR, Alan Ord

DESIGNER, Terry Gunvordahl

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager ..... Robert Hallam

Assistant Stage Manager ..... Ronald Proctor

Property Mistress ..... Jill Lockwood

Electrician ..... Anita Noel

Technical Crew ..... Debra Angell

Assistant Designer ..... Robert Hawrelak

Costumes made by ..... Betty Kolodziej

Millinery by ..... Mary Louise Cox

Set built by ..... Richard Sims

Scene painting by ..... Luke Ho

Rehearsal pianists ..... Teresa Cotton, Judy Loewen

The Department of Music gratefully acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of:

The Department of Drama
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PROGRAM NOTES

Shortly before the world premiere of **Trouble in Tahiti** on June 12, 1952, Leonard Bernstein had this to say about his work: "It's a lightweight piece. The whole thing is popular-song inspired and the roots are in musical comedy, or, even better, the American musical theatre.

A suburban couple, Dinah and Som, have drifted apart without knowing why. Both are dissatisfied, vaguely longing to repair their relationship but not knowing quite how. Dinah's confused state of mind is described in her visit to the psychiatrist. Sam leaves his office after various encounters which show up his faults. They meet accidently on the street and make excuses why they can't have lunch together, and reflect again on why they cannot communicate.

After winning a handball tournament, Sam sings of his philosophy of success, but as he says, even successful people have to pay through the nose for what they get; even he has to pay, for he has to go home.

After attending the movie "Trouble in Tahiti" by herself, Dinah gets carried away in her description of it at the hat shop. At home, the couple make one more abortive try at understanding each other, and in a depressed and reflective mood go off to see "Trouble in Tahiti."

At various junctures the smiling, sophisticated trio comment sardonically on the blessed state of suburban life in any American city.

Gianni Schicchi is the last and most successful of the three one-act operas that make up Puccini's Triptych, the other two being **Il Tabarro** and **Suor Angelica.** It is based on an incident that is actually supposed to have happened in Florence, in the year 1299. Dante, who may well have known the jolly swindler Schicchi personally, put him, in the thirtieth canto of the **Inferno,** into the eighth circle of Hell among thieves, panders, and other such.

When the opera opens, the wealthy Buoso has just died, and a gang of his relatives is hanging vulturously about the bed. Rumor has it that old Buoso has left everything to the monks of a monastery. They search frantically for the will and their worst fears are realized.

Young Rinuccio is in love with Lauretta, the daughter of Gianni Schicchi, and Gianni is a shrewd peasant of infinite resourcefulness. Secretly Rinuccio has sent for Gianni Schicchi, but when the relatives learn that Schicchi is coming they vehemently protest that a peasant

cannot help them. At Schicchi's arrival Zita insults him and Schicchi refuses to help, but Lauretta, in a moving aria, pleads with him to find a solution, and thus inspired, Schicchi contrives a plot. He has the body of old Buoso removed and he himself takes its place in the bed. He fools the doctor when he comes by imitating Buoso's voice and saying he is better. After the Doctor leaves he listens to what each relative wishes to have of Buoso's riches, and he promises to dictate a new will accordingly. Schicchi warns them however that who ever falsifies a will, according to the laws of Florence, must lose one hand and be forever banished, so no one must tell.

A notary is summoned, and Schicchi dictates the new will. However, in this will he leaves the greatest portion of the estate to himself! The relatives are wild when the notary leaves and steal whatever they can as Schicchi drives them from his newly acquired home. Only the lovers remain to sing a happy duet.

Then, as the opera closes, Schicchi addresses the audience in spoken words. He asks whether Buoso's money could serve a better purpose than for his daughter's dowery and suggests that though Dante consigned him to Hell, perhaps the amusement he has afforded the audience will make them reach a verdict of Not Guilty.

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THE ST. CECILIA OPERA ORCHESTRA 1976

Violins	R. Hyrciw (Leader for "Trouble in Tahiti")	
	A. Pelletier (Leader for "Gianni Schicchi")	
	R. Miskey	G. Hill
	S. Shadick	J. Fumagalli
	A. Chard	A. Murray
	D. Vaasjo	G. Olson
Violas	N. Hughes	S. Letourneau
	E. Morris	H. J. Saumer
	B. McLean	P. Gladstone
Cellos	B. Morris	F. Harley
Basses	J. Taylor	R. Miller
Flutes	D. Beck	B. Wall (also Piccolo)
Oboes	H. Takahashi	W. Neal
Clarinets	J. Mahon	R. Hartwell
		H. Mazur (also Bass Clarinet)
Bassoon	D. Jahns	
Horns	G. Onciul	L. Smith
Trumpets	N. Corlette	R. Townsend
Trombones	D. Archer	J. Thompson
Tuba	P. Davidson	
Timpani & Percussion	T. Parada	J. McCormick
Piano	T. Cotton	